

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) The protector of claim 2 9, wherein said casing is formed of a fabric selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester, burlap and tarpaulin.
3. (currently amended) The protector of claim 2, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of stones, rubber chips, straw, peat moss, coconut fiber, wood ~~ships~~ chips, sawdust, wood shavings and particulate polypropylene.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) The protector of claim 5 9, including grommets in side edges of said skirt, and a cord for threading through said grommets when the skirt is wrapped around a sewer grate to secure the protector on the grate.
7. (original) The protector of claim 6, wherein the casing and the filler therein are impermeable to water and contaminants, and said filler is resilient, whereby the casing and filler rebound when subjected to a compressive load.
8. (original) The protector of claim 6, wherein both the casing and the filler therein are permeable to water and impermeable to contaminants.
9. (new) A protector for an inlet to a sewer system, which includes a grate over an opening into the system, comprising an annular, closed, porous, tubular casing for placing on the grate over the opening; a skirt connected to and extending radially outwardly from a bottom side edge of said casing for wrapping around side

edges of the grate and for retaining the protector in position when the grate is placed over the opening to engage the skirt; and a filler in the casing for maintaining the top of the casing in an expanded condition so that the casing can act as a barrier, at least one of the casing, the skirt and the filler being permeable to water and impermeable to silt, oil, tar and other contaminants, whereby the protector permits the flow of water while blocking the flow of contaminants into a sewer.